

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
3 NASHVILLE DIVISION

4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
5)
6 VS) No. 3:16-00043
7)
8 PAUL GRATTON)

9 BEFORE THE HONORABLE JOE BROWN, MAGISTRATE JUDGE

10 **TRANSCRIPT OF ELECTRONIC RECORDING**

11 March 8, 2017

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1 **I N D E X**

2 Government Witness

3 **TODD STACY**

4	Direct Examination By Mr. Schrader	7
5	Cross-Examination By Mr. Gratton	10
6	Redirect Examination By Mr. Schrader	15

7 Defense Witness

8 **KIMBERLY HANEY**

9	Direct Examination By Mr. Gratton	19
10	Cross-Examination By Mr. Schrader	21
	Redirect Examination By Mr. Gratton	27

11 **E X H I B I T S**

13	Defense No. 1....Statement dated 3-6-17 from	14
	John M. Byrnes, MD, Internal Medicine re:	
14	Paul Gratton	

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2 The above-styled cause came to be heard
3 on March 8, 2017, before the Hon. Joe Brown,
4 Magistrate Judge, when the following proceedings were
5 had to-wit:

6 **TRANSCRIPT OF ELECTRONIC RECORDING**

7 ***

8 THE COURT: All right. We're here on the
9 case of United States versus Paul Gratton. You're
10 Mr. Gratton?

11 MR. GRATTON: Yes, sir.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Gratton, you were
13 released on bond and I don't have a -- arrest warrant
14 then was issued by Judge Sharp, looks like yesterday,
15 charging you with failure to appear for a jury trial.
16 And the government's filed a motion for detention. As
17 I understand the government's also filed a motion to
18 revoke the present bond.

19 MR. SCHRADER: That's correct.

20 THE COURT: All right. So Mr. Gratton,
21 that's where we are. My understanding is the matter's
22 set for trial on the charges in the morning. Do you
23 have counsel in the matter or where are we with
24 counsel?

25 MR. GRATTON: I have a man here who will

1 file papers at the moment is where I'm at, sir.

2 THE COURT: And what is -- and what is
3 your status?

4 MR. HOPKINS: Your Honor, I'm David
5 Hopkins. I'm an attorney, I was appointed to
6 represent --

7 THE COURT: Oh, you're elbow counsel.

8 MR. HOPKINS: Elbow counsel.

9 THE COURT: Oh, okay.

10 MR. HOPKINS: Mr. Gratton is pro se,
11 Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Okay. All right. As I
13 understand it, Mr. Gratton, you terminated his
14 services as full-time attorney, and he's been
15 appointed to advise you but not to formally represent
16 you, if I understand correctly. Okay.

17 MR. GRATTON: Yes, sir.

18 THE COURT: All right. Well, case is due
19 to set tomorrow. I would normally set a detention
20 hearing within three days, but the matter is set for
21 trial. Do you want a detention hearing in the matter
22 or what?

23 MR. GRATTON: Yes, sir, if you have time
24 for it.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Well, is the

1 government ready -- you ready now or do you want to do
2 it now?

3 MR. SCHRADER: Is it my understanding
4 that we set it three days from now like we do in the
5 ordinary course?

6 THE COURT: What's wrong with doing it
7 now?

8 MR. SCHRADER: Well, I'm happy to argue,
9 I guess, about detention, but I don't think we're in
10 position to be putting on any additional proof or
11 (inaudible) about that particular issue.

12 THE COURT: Well, I mean, he either
13 showed up or he didn't. You got a witness that says
14 he showed up or he didn't for trial.

15 MR. SCHRADER: Sure. And I think -- I
16 mean --

17 THE COURT: I'm just saying, as a
18 practical matter, the trial is going to start in the
19 morning. If you've got a witness that's going to say
20 whether he did or didn't and then Mr. Gratton can
21 present whatever evidence he has as to why he didn't
22 appear. And I'm going to -- I'm ready to rule.

23 MR. SCHRADER: Sure. And I guess -- I
24 think if the Court can give me just a moment, I think
25 we can probably accomplish that.

1 THE COURT: Sure.

2 MR. SCHRADER: I guess my question would
3 be, does the fact that the Court issued a bench
4 warrant yesterday not suffice? We're talking about
5 establishing probable cause that the defendant failed
6 to appear. Judge Sharp issued a bench warrant
7 yesterday.

8 THE COURT: Actually, technically issued
9 an arrest warrant. Says here marshals commanded to
10 arrest him and bring him before a magistrate judge
11 without delay. So they've brought him before a
12 magistrate judge without -- without delay apparently,
13 so -- and grounds for failure to appear for a jury
14 trial.

15 So as far as I'm concerned, I'd have a
16 quick hearing on it. You may be right that -- that --
17 but the order doesn't basically -- doesn't fully say
18 that he's revoked the bond. I mean, I think Judge
19 Sharp certainly could have revoked the bond. He
20 didn't. He just ordered him brought before me.

21 MR. SCHRADER: If it's just a matter of
22 putting a witness on to establish that he had a trial
23 date set yesterday and he did not appear, I can do
24 that.

25 THE COURT: That the -- that's the basis

1 of the warrant is failure to appear for a jury trial.

2 MR. SCHRADER: Sure. Give me one moment,
3 Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Sure.

5 (Pause in proceedings.)

6 THE COURT: Mr. Gratton, I notice you're
7 holding your ear. If you have any difficulty
8 understanding me, let me know and I'll be glad to
9 speak a little louder or repeat.

10 MR. GRATTON: Thank you, sir.

11 MR. SCHRADER: All right, Your Honor.
12 We'll call Special Agent Todd Stacy.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 **TODD STACY**

15 called as a witness, after having been first duly
16 sworn, testified as follows:

17 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

18 BY MR. SCHRADER:

19 Q. Agent Stacy, good afternoon.

20 A. Good afternoon.

21 Q. Can you please state and spell your name
22 for the court reporter.

23 A. Todd, T-o-d-d, Stacy, S-t-a-c-y.

24 Q. Agent Stacy, where do you work?

25 A. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms

1 and Explosives.

2 Q. What is your title with ATF?

3 A. Special agent.

4 Q. And what are your duties as a special
5 agent?

6 A. Investigate violations of federal law,
7 specifically firearms, narcotics and explosives
8 violations.

9 Q. And in the course of your duties as an
10 agent, did you have the opportunity to investigate a
11 person named Paul Gratton?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was that person actually charged with
14 federal firearms offenses?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you see Mr. Gratton here in the
17 courtroom today?

18 A. Yes. He's sitting at that table right
19 there, to the right of Mr. Hopkins.

20 MR. SCHRADER: May the record reflect an
21 accurate identification of the defendant.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 BY MR. SCHRADER:

24 Q. Agent Stacy, was that case you're talking
25 about set for trial on March 7, 2017?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And had you appeared at a number of
3 hearings in connection with that matter?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Yesterday when -- or on the 7th when
6 trial was scheduled to begin, it was yesterday, was
7 Mr. Gratton present for that trial?

8 A. He was not.

9 Q. Did you see Judge Sharp -- well, was
10 Judge Sharp present?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did Judge Sharp issue a warrant for
13 Mr. Gratton's arrest at that time?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And then did you subsequently assist the
16 marshals in attempting to locate Mr. Gratton?

17 A. Yes.

18 MR. SCHRADER: Nothing further, Judge.

19 THE COURT: Okay. What happened when you
20 attempted to find him?

21 THE WITNESS: We made contact with
22 Mr. Gratton. He was not overly cooperative with the
23 marshals. Marshals informed him that he needed to be
24 at the federal building this morning at 8:30.

25 THE COURT: Okay. Where was contact

1 made?

2 THE WITNESS: At his residence in
3 Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

4 THE COURT: Okay. And the marshals
5 didn't attempt to execute the warrant?

6 THE WITNESS: Due to officer safety
7 issues, no.

8 THE COURT: All right. Okay. You may
9 question.

10 MR. GRATTON: May I question? Yes, thank
11 you.

12 THE COURT: Yes.

13 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

14 BY MR. GRATTON:

15 Q. What time did you try and get ahold of
16 me?

17 A. I don't recall the exact time. It was
18 the afternoon of March 7.

19 Q. Okay. And I answered straightaway or
20 called you back straightaway; is that right?

21 A. I didn't speak to you personally.

22 Q. Okay. So there's no question that I was
23 very responsive once I knew somebody was trying to get
24 ahold of me?

25 A. I was told that you did speak to the

1 marshals, as well as federal probation.

2 Q. Okay. And did the probation people and
3 the marshals both speak to me quickly, concisely and
4 was I responsive to their requests?

5 A. I can't speak to the exact specifics of
6 conversations you had with those individuals.

7 Q. Were you with the marshals when they
8 contacted me?

9 A. One time I was, yes.

10 Q. And was that in Rutherford County or from
11 here?

12 A. That was in Rutherford County.

13 Q. Do you have any idea why I didn't -- why
14 I was not here yesterday morning?

15 A. I know what you told the marshals, yes.

16 Q. Okay. And what is that?

17 A. You told the marshals you didn't know you
18 had court.

19 Q. Not -- nothing else was mentioned to you?

20 A. I believe you said you were sick and you
21 did not know that you had court on March 7.

22 MR. GRATTON: Would you give me a moment,
23 sir.

24 THE COURT: Certainly.

1 BY MR. GRATTON:

2 Q. I'm going to pass you a document.

3 THE COURT: Let the government counsel
4 see it first.

5 MR. GRATTON: It's the only copy I've
6 got, sir.

7 THE COURT: He'll give it back to you.
8 Just let him see it.

9 BY MR. GRATTON:

10 Q. Do you see that document?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you describe it?

13 A. This appears to be a note from a doctor
14 indicating that you, Paul Gratton, have been examined
15 or treated on this date for sinusitis. Says
16 contagious, says may return to regular work/school
17 without limitations on 3-13-17. And is signed 3-6-17
18 by John Byrne, MD.

19 Q. Okay. The moment you contacted me, is it
20 true that I contacted Ms. Haney or the pretrial
21 services?

22 A. I can't speak for any contacts you had
23 with pretrial.

24 Q. Was I a danger to anybody yesterday in
25 any way, shape or form?

1 A. I don't know, sir.

2 Q. Were you there when I met with the
3 marshal?

4 A. When you met with the marshal, I wasn't
5 with the marshals, but I was in proximity, yes.

6 Q. And there was no threatening behavior of
7 any sort?

8 A. I can't speak to specifics.

9 Q. How good is your eyesight?

10 A. My eyesight?

11 Q. Yes.

12 A. I wear contacts.

13 Q. Yeah. So was I threatening in any way?
14 Simple question, yes or no?

15 A. I can't say what was in your mind, sir.
16 I can say what I saw. Didn't appear that you were
17 being overly cooperative with the marshals.

18 MR. GRATTON: Can you ask the agent to
19 hand the note to (inaudible).

20 Your Honor, that note is from the doctor.

21 THE COURT: All right.

22 MR. GRATTON: And that's the reason I was
23 actually --

24 THE COURT: Let me have it made a part of
25 the record. I'll make a copy and return your

1 original.

2 MR. GRATTON: I believe that you'll find
3 if Ms. Haney -- she has some additional documentation
4 similar to that also.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MR. GRATTON: One moment, sir.

7 THE COURT: Okay. We'll make that
8 Defense 1.

9 (Defense Exhibit No. 1 was admitted.)

10 THE COURT: Let me make a copy and give
11 the original back to Mr. Gratton.

12 BY MR. GRATTON:

13 Q. What officer safety issues that you
14 brought up do you believe were important?

15 A. When the marshals contacted me, based on
16 what I saw, you refused to get out of the passenger
17 side of the vehicle and receive paperwork from the
18 marshals. The marshals didn't know what was in the
19 vehicle, didn't know what you possibly had on your
20 person, didn't know what was going through your mind.

21 Q. And you think that's some kind of
22 threatening behavior for safety, when both hands --
23 when both hands are visible?

24 A. It was my understanding that both of your
25 hands were not always visible.

1 Q. Well, I beg to differ with your opinion.
2 And I was very open with the -- with the two marshals.
3 They just --

4 MR. SCHRADER: Objection as to form.

5 THE COURT: I'm sorry?

6 MR. SCHRADER: Objection as to form.

7 THE COURT: Overruled.

8 BY MR. GRATTON:

9 Q. There was a man who had a power of
10 attorney there. Did you witness that?

11 A. I did not.

12 MR. GRATTON: I don't believe I have
13 anything further for this --

14 THE COURT: All right.

15 MR. GRATTON: -- for this man.

16 THE COURT: All right. Any further
17 direct -- redirect?

18 MR. SCHRADER: Just briefly, sir.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

21 BY MR. SCHRADER:

22 Q. Agent Stacy, were you present for a
23 pretrial status hearing on March 2, 2017?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Would have been Thursday of last week?

1 A. Yes, I was.

2 Q. And was Mr. Gratton also present at that
3 hearing?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. All right. And have you ever seen that
6 note that he handed you earlier today?

7 A. I have not.

8 Q. Do you know anything about the doctor
9 whose name is listed on that note?

10 A. About the doctor, no, I do not.

11 Q. Can you vouch in any way as to whether
12 that document is authentic?

13 A. I cannot.

14 MR. SCHRADER: Nothing further, Judge.

15 THE COURT: Okay. You said you were at
16 the status conference on the 2nd?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

18 THE COURT: Did you hear the matter being
19 set for trial?

20 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: And trial was set for?

22 THE WITNESS: March 7.

23 THE COURT: Okay. All right. You
24 mentioned something about a man with a power of
25 attorney or you asked about that. Do you know

1 anything about that?

2 THE WITNESS: After speaking to the
3 marshals, they indicated that Mr. Gratton did inform
4 them that the individual with him, that he had given
5 him power of attorney. I did not personally hear him
6 say that or even see another individual from where I
7 was.

8 THE COURT: Oh, okay. All right.

9 Do you have any other questions you want
10 to ask him, Mr. Gratton?

11 MR. GRATTON: Not this witness.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, sir.

13 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

14 THE COURT: Watch your step there.

15 *****WITNESS EXCUSED*****

16 THE COURT: All right. Government have
17 anything else, then?

18 MR. SCHRADER: No, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 MR. GRATTON: Your Honor, in the docket,
21 I bring to your attention the pretrial hearing where
22 the man who was helping me that day -- and I believe
23 that there is now a transcript been entered, the man
24 who was helping me with my hearing was actually
25 removed from the room. So there was a point in time

1 maybe about 10 minutes into that hearing, where the
2 hearing took on its own life and I did not know what
3 was going on at that point. It's quite clear in the
4 transcript, I believe.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Do we have a
6 transcript filed? Do you want to print it out for me?

7 MR. GRATTON: May I --

8 MR. SCHRADER: I will say, Your Honor --
9 and I'm happy to argue whenever the Court's ready. I
10 attached to the motion that I filed the transcript of
11 that hearing.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Well, unfortunately,
13 given the quick time here, the only thing I -- only
14 thing I've got is the arrest warrant. I haven't had a
15 chance to read it yet. I'm going to -- if -- I'm
16 going to get it printed out and then I can read it and
17 I've -- Mr. Gratton doesn't have a copy, he can have a
18 copy.

19 MR. GRATTON: Your Honor, I'd like to --
20 if Ms. Haney -- if Kimberly Haney is present, I'd like
21 to ask her just a couple questions just to clarify
22 your record, if that's okay.

23 THE COURT: She's here. You can ask her.

24 MR. GRATTON: Do you mind, Ms. Haney?

KIMBERLY HANEY

2 called as a witness, after having been first duly
3 sworn, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. GRATTON:

6 Q. Good afternoon. Can you state your name
7 for the record.

8 A. Kimberly Haney.

9 Q. And what do you do?

10 A. US Probation and Pretrial Services
11 Officer.

12 Q. Okay. And are you assigned to my case
13 here?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. Have you had any other issues,
16 other than what -- what Todd Stacy brought up
17 yesterday?

18 A. Issues? Can you clarify what you mean?

19 Q. Well, have you had any problems? Am I a
20 problem customer?

21 A. Not that I'm aware of.

22 Q. Do you remember about what time you got
23 hold of me yesterday?

24 A. I'm not exactly sure what time, no.

25 Q. Well, early afternoon?

1 A. It was in the afternoon, but I'm not sure
2 what time.

3 Q. Was I responsive to your needs? Did I
4 get back to you immediately, speak to you, provide
5 documentation fairly quickly to what you'd asked me?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. Was there anything lacking in the
8 documentation I gave to you that you might need for
9 your job?

10 A. There was nothing specific I needed for
11 my job. You just offered to provide documentation
12 regarding your illness.

13 Q. Okay. And do you have any -- the
14 government's provided a document that says that they
15 believe I'm a flight risk. You have -- you have two
16 things in your possession that would ensure I'm not a
17 flight risk. What two things are those?

18 A. You're referring to your passports?

19 Q. Correct.

20 A. Yes, I have them.

21 Q. Okay. And have I done anything other
22 than traveling internationally with the consent of the
23 Court, but have I ever left the criteria that you give
24 me to travel?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Okay. And I've always, at all times,
2 made you aware, even if I'm going close to the border
3 of where the district is?

4 A. As far as I'm aware, yes.

5 Q. Okay. Would you have a problem with me
6 continuing that relationship, if I give assurance to
7 the Court of my appearance and some form of
8 communication if, in fact, there was an issue?

9 A. I would not.

10 MR. GRATTON: Okay. Thank you,
11 Ms. Haney.

12 THE COURT: Any cross?

13 MR. SCHRADER: Just briefly, Your Honor.

14 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

15 BY MR. SCHRADER:

16 Q. Ms. Haney, good afternoon.

17 A. Good afternoon.

18 Q. You've had a number of conversations with
19 Mr. Gratton; right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And that's typically (inaudible)?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And the conversations have been
24 (inaudible)?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. He's been lucid in those conversations?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Seems to know kind of what's going on;
4 right?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Aware of his case; correct?

7 A. To my knowledge, yes.

8 Q. And he's also filed a number of pleadings
9 on the docket; right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Have you seen those at all?

12 A. I have not seen them all, no.

13 Q. Have you seen any of them?

14 A. The more recent ones, no, I have not.

15 Q. All right. You've never had any
16 difficulty communicating with him; correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. He's never expressed any trouble with his
19 hearing when he's talked to you; correct?

20 A. He has mentioned once before regarding
21 his hearing, but not repeatedly.

22 Q. And on that one occasion, what did he
23 say?

24 A. He just asked me to speak up.

25 Q. Was that conversation in your office?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. All right. On the 7th you called
3 Mr. Gratton; right?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And you notified Mr. Gratton that there
6 was a warrant out for his arrest; correct?

7 A. Incorrect.

8 Q. What did you notify him of?

9 A. I just let him know he missed court. Was
10 he aware that the trial was set for yesterday, and
11 that he didn't appear.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. But I never mentioned that there was an
14 arrest warrant issued for him.

15 Q. Okay. Just that he had missed his court
16 date; correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And he was then -- you made him aware at
19 that point that he'd missed that court date; right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. He didn't come in at that point to the
22 courthouse, did he?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Didn't come down to see you; correct?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Didn't ask which judge he should go back
2 and talk to about the court date, did he?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Did he provide you at that point with any
5 information about a doctor's appointment?

6 A. He did.

7 Q. And what was that about?

8 A. He e-mailed me a document allegedly from
9 a physician that he went to see regarding his
10 diagnosis of sinusitis.

11 Q. Ever heard anything about that before the
12 phone call where you told him that he'd missed a court
13 date?

14 A. No.

15 Q. That was the first time?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you ever talk to that doctor?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Not reached out at all to figure out
20 whether that was genuine in any way?

21 A. No, I have not.

22 Q. All right. And you know that Mr. Gratton
23 has had this trial date pending for six months or so
24 now; right?

25 A. I can't say that I've known for that

1 long.

2 Q. Well, this case was set for trial in
3 October. You know that Mr. Gratton knows that it's
4 been set for a while; correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You see him on a weekly basis?

7 A. Monthly.

8 Q. Monthly.

9 A. It's once per month.

10 Q. Okay. And I presume when you meet with
11 him you explain to him how important it is to comply
12 with conditions of pretrial release; right?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And how important it is obviously for him
15 to show up for his trial; right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Never in any of those meetings have you
18 ever had an indication that Mr. Gratton didn't know
19 that he had a trial in March of 2017; isn't that
20 right?

21 A. Can you repeat that?

22 Q. Sure. There's never been any indication
23 in any of the conversations or meetings you've had
24 with him that there was any doubt in his mind about
25 the fact that he had a trial scheduled in March of

1 2017?

2 A. I can't speak for certainty on that. He
3 knew about the pretrial conference hearing, but I
4 can't say that he actually knew about the trial
5 because I believe -- and I could be wrong -- he had a
6 status hearing or something set before and it was
7 rescheduled, so the dates were confused. But I can't
8 say with certainty he actually knew about the trial
9 date, but he knew something was going on this month.

10 Q. Okay. He knew that -- well, he knew that
11 he had that status date, the one that he attended;
12 correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did you go to that status date as well?

15 A. I did not.

16 Q. Of course, he appeared. And he's known
17 that this case has been around, obviously, for a
18 little while; correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Fair to describe him as a defendant who's
21 interested in his case?

22 A. Very interested in his case.

23 Q. All right. And likes to be informed and
24 aware of what's going on in his case?

25 A. Yes.

1 MR. SCHRADER: Nothing further.

2 MR. GRATTON: May I redirect?

3 THE COURT: Certainly.

4 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

5 BY MR. GRATTON:

6 Q. Trying not to belabor, Your Honor. Sorry
7 if I...

8 Did you ask me to drive to Nashville
9 yesterday once I explained the status -- how I was?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. Did I explain to you why I did not
12 drive?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. Can you tell the Court, please.

15 A. You said that you were contagious and
16 that you were not -- your doctor told you not to be
17 around people.

18 Q. Okay. Did I mention anything about not
19 driving myself in regards to dizziness or an
20 imbalance?

21 A. You did mention that you could not drive
22 yourself, but you did not say why you could not drive
23 yourself.

24 Q. Fair enough.

25 MR. GRATTON: Apologize for (inaudible),

1 Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: That's all right.

3 BY MR. GRATTON:

4 Q. You said that there was a pretrial
5 hearing on -- that we were all aware of on the 7th --
6 on the 2nd of March. And were you aware or do you
7 recall in any way anything that was asked to extend
8 that date so that there could be additional help for
9 the defense?

10 A. I do not recall.

11 Q. You don't recall, okay. Do you have any
12 problem with me being -- continuing under your care
13 pretrial?

14 A. I do not.

15 Q. And you don't see me as a flight risk?

16 A. I do not.

17 MR. GRATTON: Okay. Thank you,

18 Ms. Haney.

19 Your Honor, I'm okay with Ms. Haney.

20 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, ma'am.

21 *****WITNESS EXCUSED*****

22 THE COURT: Give me just a moment. I'm
23 reading the transcript.

24 (Pause in proceedings.)

25 THE COURT: All right. Yes.

1 MR. GRATTON: If I may, Your Honor, one
2 other thing, Your Honor. Your Honor, that's all the
3 witnesses. I do have something else, if that will
4 assist the Court in making a decision.

5 THE COURT: I'll look at whatever you
6 got.

7 MR. GRATTON: If we're to go to trial
8 tomorrow, I'm okay with that. And I understand that a
9 lot of restrictions have been placed upon the defense,
10 but I would ask for the leniency of the Court to be
11 able to actually prepare my case, and I can't do that
12 if I'm incarcerated. And my papers are at home.

13 I have no problem contacting Ms. Haney
14 or -- by whatever means she chooses to ensure I'm here
15 in the morning. And I'm not sure if Ms. Haney may
16 even -- a quick yes-or-no answer if she would have a
17 problem with me being at home this evening so I can
18 actually prepare a defense for the trial. I'm unable
19 to do so in the accommodations I've been enjoying the
20 last few hours.

21 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Schrader?

22 MR. SCHRADER: May I be heard, Judge.
23 This case was set for trial Tuesday, so I appreciate
24 that Mr. Gratton is now ready to go to trial tomorrow.
25 But, frankly, this sort of behavior is consistent with

1 the way that he has acted during the course of these
2 proceedings. This case has been set for trial for
3 months. He's had multiple lawyers in this case who
4 have been relieved from his service at his own
5 choosing.

6 We could have started this trial on
7 Tuesday when he knew he was supposed to be here. He
8 didn't show up. I would note that in my motion I
9 included the fact that his son, who was subpoenaed,
10 did appear.

11 And when the marshals tried to ask his
12 son where Mr. Gratton was -- first of all, his son
13 wouldn't say how he got there. He just said that
14 someone who was supposed to be in the area had dropped
15 him off. But he also provided a --

16 THE COURT: Is this in the nature of an
17 offer of proof or what?

18 MR. SCHRADER: It is. It's attached to
19 my motion.

20 THE COURT: Okay.

21 MR. SCHRADER: But it's relevant.

22 THE COURT: I tell you what, let me get a
23 copy of the motion. Unfortunately, I don't have a
24 copy of your motion.

25 MR. SCHRADER: I'm sorry, Judge.

1 THE COURT: You know, it gets filed on
2 ECF and I've got other things, I don't rush to my
3 computer and print stuff out. So you need to bring a
4 copy with you.

5 MR. SCHRADER: I don't know that I have a
6 clean copy.

7 THE COURT: Okay. And I can print it
8 out. I just need to know that I've got stuff to print
9 out. Thanks.

10 MR. SCHRADER: When --

11 THE COURT: All right. Now, having said
12 that, give me a chance to read it.

13 (Pause in proceedings.)

14 THE COURT: That's the transcript. I've
15 read the transcript. Okay. And this is -- you've
16 attached two documents, 170-2, looks like page 1 and
17 2. And one that says I've appeared.

18 So his son was, what, subpoenaed as a
19 witness?

20 MR. SCHRADER: He was. The government
21 subpoenaed him as a witness. He appeared that day.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 MR. SCHRADER: His father has custody of
24 his son, who showed up with this note --

25 THE COURT: How old is his son?

1 MR. SCHRADER: He's, I believe, 16.

2 THE COURT: 16.

3 MR. SCHRADER: 16 or 17.

4 THE COURT: All right.

5 MR. SCHRADER: But anytime they would ask
6 him about his father in order to maybe get some
7 information about where he was located, he provided
8 this note. It was (inaudible) by his father. It's in
9 exactly the same style that everything else
10 Mr. Gratton has filed with the Court.

11 So at a minimum, Mr. Gratton knew that
12 his son had been subpoenaed to appear for his trial
13 date. Mr. Gratton also filed -- this is also on ECF
14 at the end of that hearing, the hearing where he
15 refused to answer any questions from Judge Sharp and
16 just tried to write out notes and hand them up to
17 Judge Sharp -- a notice of withdrawal, indicating that
18 he didn't see any benefit to his being in the court
19 any longer, which we took, frankly, as a, you know,
20 suggestion that he may not be there on the 7th.

21 And then for whatever reason, even though
22 he had ample notice that he was supposed to be there
23 on March 7, he didn't show up. The marshals went out
24 looking for him. You heard a little bit of testimony
25 about how that proceeded. And eventually Mr. Gratton

1 showed up. But he doesn't get to just show up in
2 court whenever he would like.

3 And it's unfortunate for him that it's
4 going to be a little bit more difficult, given his
5 current situation, in terms of handling papers and
6 that sort of thing, but that's Mr. Gratton's fault.
7 That is not the government's fault.

8 In addition, it was my understanding,
9 through Mr. Hopkins, that Mr. Gratton was going to
10 have an associate of his go out today to get clothes
11 for tomorrow and to get his papers. So this is the
12 first time that I'm hearing that apparently none of
13 that has happened. I thought it was going to happen
14 and we'd have that issue resolved.

15 But, frankly, Judge, the way he's
16 conducted himself in connection with all these
17 proceedings, I mean, this is just another example of
18 the way he has flouted the Court. Again, this is just
19 sort of the -- I guess, the final example of that,
20 deciding not to show up for trial at all.

21 We don't have any assurance at this point
22 that he's going to comply with any conditions this
23 Court is going to set. We're taking a big chance, if
24 he's released today, to show up tomorrow. He didn't
25 show up at his last trial date.

1 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Gratton, I'll
2 be glad to hear from you.

3 MR. GRATTON: Your Honor, when I did
4 speak to the marshals yesterday, I asked them what the
5 nature of the requirement that they had, and they said
6 to be at Judge Sharp's room at 8:30 today, in the
7 morning. And we set off at 7 o'clock this morning. I
8 got a ride and I was maybe three minutes late because
9 the interstate was particularly bad. Stayed in
10 contact with Ms. Haney the whole way up there.

11 I came, I appeared and I did as asked,
12 and I did so to the best of my abilities. The
13 government has had 20 months playing around with me in
14 this case, and using various -- very coercive, in some
15 cases. Communication of threats, against I and my
16 son. There's a reason I've been cautious with my son.

17 And now that all the documentation has
18 hit the case, I barely had a few days to even go
19 through some of these documents to prepare a good
20 defense. I understand that the deck is stacked
21 against a defendant in some regards, especially in
22 special materials like Jencks materials and the
23 refusal of the government to give up reliability and
24 credibility of witnesses and things of that nature,
25 which I asked for a long time ago. All I'm asking for

1 is for you to speak with Ms. Haney and ask her if she
2 has any issues with me being home to prepare at least
3 some semblance of a defense for trial tomorrow.

4 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

5 MR. SCHRADER: May I be heard, Judge?

6 Frankly, it's not really even relevant to
7 the issue of detention, but I just want to make sure
8 the record is clear here. We indicted Mr. Gratton in
9 March of 2016. He originally got a public defender,
10 Mr. Shabazz. The first trial date was continued at
11 the request of defense counsel.

12 Then our trial date in October was
13 continued because Judge Campbell ordered a competency
14 evaluation. We had to make sure that Mr. Gratton was
15 competent to stand trial and represent himself. So to
16 the extent this has dragged out at all -- and frankly,
17 in the government's view, it hasn't -- that's been at
18 the request of Mr. Gratton or because of Mr. Gratton.

19 And in terms of his requests for
20 additional discovery and that sort of thing, at the
21 pretrial conference, this was about a month ago now,
22 Mr. Gratton said he wanted to file a motion to
23 suppress.

24 Judge Sharp permitted him to do that.

25 And instead of filing a motion to suppress related to

1 what he wanted to file, he filed 16 other motions,
2 including a couple of motions to suppress not related
3 to that issue. Judge Sharp denied all of them. He
4 denied 13 of them without even requiring a response
5 from the government.

6 So we've satisfied our obligations at
7 this point. We're ready for trial. We've been ready
8 for trial for a while. And for Mr. Gratton to now
9 suggest that we've delayed the proceedings because
10 he's not ready for some reason is just at odds with
11 the facts and the way this case has proceeded.

12 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

13 Mr. Gratton, anything else?

14 MR. GRATTON: I'm not asking for any more
15 delays. I'm just asking for some time with the papers
16 so I can be here in the morning and ready. That's
17 all, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Well, let me ask this: Is it
19 possible if Mr. Hopkins is available that Mr. Hopkins
20 can go there and pick up your papers for you as elbow
21 counsel? The problem, Mr. Gratton, is my dealings
22 with you have been pretty straightforward and I've let
23 you go to England I think three times during your
24 mother's illness and her death, and you returned as
25 required.

1 The problem I have now is that it's clear
2 from the transcript -- I mean, Judge Sharp set the
3 matter -- I mean, the transcript says when it was
4 going to start. And if, in fact, you were ill and
5 that -- I don't discount that one way or the other,
6 but the -- the solution is not -- not to show up or
7 not to let the Court know.

8 The Court had witnesses here, they had 30
9 or 40 jurors here, and you simply didn't show up. And
10 Judge Sharp's issued a warrant on that and has set the
11 trial to begin tomorrow.

12 Now, if you have -- you can file a motion
13 with -- and I'm not -- it's not in my jurisdiction to
14 set the district judge's trial date or when he starts
15 the trial. If you have motions to delay or continue,
16 you need to file those and take those up with Judge
17 Sharp.

18 And I'll give you a piece of free advice.
19 As the old saying, free advice is worth what you pay
20 for it, but you've had some counsel. Mr. Hopkins is
21 experienced counsel.

22 I'll admit, the last time I let --
23 authorized you to go to England, I was frankly very
24 concerned about the pleadings you were filing because
25 I've been -- I've been a prosecutor for a number of

1 years and dealt with a lot of criminal cases, but I
2 don't know where it came from or something, but with
3 all due respect, 99 percent of the materials you were
4 filing is just legal nonsense. It sounds kind of
5 legal, but when you read it, it just -- it makes no
6 sense at all. I'll give you that for what it's worth.

7 And I had great reservations when I let
8 you go to England the last time, but your mother had
9 died and I thought it was appropriate to let you go.
10 And to your credit, you went and came back. I think
11 there was an extension that I granted and you came
12 back.

13 The problem is, at this point, you had a
14 court date yesterday and you didn't appear. And under
15 the circumstances I'm going to have to order
16 detention, but I would -- from the government's side,
17 I would like to see if there's some way, to the extent
18 he's got materials, that some arrangements can be
19 made, either -- if Mr. Hopkins is available to have
20 them picked up.

21 Otherwise you may have a motion for
22 continuance and Judge Sharp continues it. I'm in no
23 position to grant a continuance in the matter.
24 Unfortunately, at this point, having -- having failed
25 to show up yesterday, I'm not in a position at this

1 point to authorize release, but I -- I would -- if
2 it's possible, I'd like to see a way that Mr. Gratton
3 can get his material.

4 Mr. Hopkins, I know you're elbow counsel,
5 and elbow counsel, as you pointed out, is an
6 uncomfortable position. You're a lawyer without --
7 without speaking rights, I guess, to a certain extent.
8 But I don't know whether you're available to have
9 something picked up or to do it or not or whether
10 Mr. Gratton can tell you what he needs.

11 MR. HOPKINS: Your Honor, the issue with
12 that would be obviously that the items are in
13 Mr. Gratton's home.

14 THE COURT: Right.

15 MR. HOPKINS: I'm certainly not
16 comfortable going through a man's house, going through
17 his personal possessions trying to find papers and
18 documents. I can only speak to my office and my home.
19 If someone were looking for the contents of a
20 particular file, it would be in 500 different places.

21 So I can provide no assurance that even
22 if I had that consent and were able to get access to
23 what I'm sure is his locked house that I could
24 competently find all the documents he's requesting.

25 I can let the Court know that I did

1 contact someone on Mr. Gratton's behalf at his request
2 and requested that person to get those documents, who
3 advised that they would do their best --

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 MR. HOPKINS: -- to try to do that.

6 THE COURT: I can -- Mr. Hopkins, I can
7 understand your position. Again, I don't know what
8 Mr. -- you know, what the conditions of the files are
9 at Mr. Gratton's house, whether they're in one nice
10 box, file cabinet.

11 If so, then if he's got someone there
12 that he can talk to, I can -- I can certainly direct
13 that the marshals allow him to -- I hope this
14 individual can be contacted by phone to speak to the
15 person about picking up the materials he needs and see
16 about getting them.

17 So I would direct the marshals to allow
18 him to contact this person, either through you or
19 through someone else, to see if he can do it. And
20 then I would say, Mr. Gratton, in the morning, when
21 the trial starts, you can make motions for whatever
22 motions you feel appropriate with Judge Sharp.

23 I would -- it's -- again, it's free
24 advice, but I would -- I would urge you to carefully
25 consider whether you really want to represent yourself

1 or whether you'd be better off with an attorney, but
2 that -- that decision is not mine, it's yours. But
3 there's an old saying that someone that -- a lawyer
4 that represents himself has a fool for a client, and
5 that -- that applies to pro se probably as much, as
6 not more. So I leave that with you.

7 I'm going to have to order detention in
8 the matter. I will direct the marshal to allow you as
9 far as practical or through Mr. Hopkins to see if you
10 can have someone there to bring you the materials and
11 you can take up whatever motions you have, then, for
12 continuance with Judge Sharp in the morning, but
13 that's -- that's his jurisdiction, not mine.

14 MR. HOPKINS: Your Honor, to that end, I
15 have copies of the documents that have been filed
16 today, I brought the government and myself on behalf
17 of Mr. Gratton. He's requested paper so he can make
18 notes tonight, because obviously I don't know what
19 facility he'll be going to and when he'll be getting
20 there tonight.

21 THE COURT: All right. Let's see if we
22 can give him a couple legal pads.

23 MR. HOPKINS: I've got a legal pad here.

24 THE COURT: Oh, okay.

25 MR. HOPKINS: And an ink pen as well.

1 Obviously it will depend on the jail if he can have
2 those when he gets there. But if the Court will
3 allow --

4 THE COURT: They'll probably want him to
5 use a pencil up at the jail. I don't know that -- I'm
6 not going to start telling the marshal how to run his
7 office, but, I mean --

8 MR. HOPKINS: (inaudible).

9 THE COURT: He clearly -- he clearly
10 needs -- he clearly needs a writing instrument.

11 MR. HOPKINS: He does. So I've got the
12 documents that I'll provide to him now.

13 THE COURT: All right. The marshal will
14 probably want to just --

15 MR. HOPKINS: Sure.

16 THE WITNESS: -- just check them. Not to
17 read them, but to make sure there's nothing... Yeah.

18 MR. HOPKINS: Thank you, Judge.

19 THE COURT: All right. We'll be in
20 recess, then.

21 *****END OF ELECTRONIC RECORDING*****

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2
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
3

4 I, Roxann Harkins, Official Court Reporter
5 for the United States District Court for the Middle
6 District of Tennessee, in Nashville, do hereby
7 certify:
8

9 That I transcribed from **electronic recording**
10 the proceedings held on March 8, 2017, in the matter
11 of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA v. PAUL GRATTON, Case No.
12 3:16-cr-0043; that said proceedings in connection with
13 the hearing were reduced to typewritten form by me;
14 and that the foregoing transcript is a true and
15 accurate transcript of said proceedings.

16
17 This is the 19th day of April, 2017.
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

s/ Roxann Harkins
ROXANN HARKINS, RPR, CRR
Official Court Reporter